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LETTER DATED 18 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 16 October 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, H.E. Hassan A. Hassanov to the Chairman of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Minsk Conference, Mr. Mario Raffaelli, as received by fax.

I should be grateful if you would have this and the above-mentioned letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yashar ALIYEV
Charge d'affaires a.i.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Letter dated 16 October 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic addressed to the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk Conference

The adoption by the Security Council of resolution 874 (1993) has imposed new responsibilities on all the participants in the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), making them even more accountable for the course and outcome of the peace process. In this connection, I consider it necessary to draw your attention to the provisions of that resolution which require urgent action by the Minsk Group.

The Azerbaijani Republic takes note of the appeal of the Security Council for an effective and permanent cease-fire and declares its willingness to extend the cease-fire agreement for a period of up to six months without any preconditions on either side. We expect this proposal to be considered and supported by the Minsk Group at its next meeting.

As a country which adheres to the United Nations Charter and the principles of CSCE, Azerbaijan has consistently demonstrated its desire for a peaceful settlement of the conflict through its actions. As the victimized party, we expect the CSCE Minsk Group to take effective action, based on recognition of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of the Azerbaijani Republic, as reaffirmed in the relevant Security Council resolutions aimed at protecting the national interests of Azerbaijan, which have been trampled upon by the aggressor. We would be very disappointed if the work of the Minsk Group were to be unsuccessful.

Still deeply concerned that Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) have not yet been implemented, and having placed certain hopes in your initiative to work out a plan for their implementation, we participated very actively in the deliberations of the Minsk Group on the "adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993)". Unfortunately, however, the document you submitted is not in accordance with the principal provisions and demands of resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993). In this connection, we are prepared to participate in further consultations within the Minsk Group to bring your proposal into line with the demands of resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) and with the statement by the President of the Security Council of 18 August 1993 (S/26326).

In resolution 874 (1993), the Security Council expressed the conviction that all pending questions arising from the conflict should be settled expeditiously in the context of the CSCE Minsk process. This places a particular responsibility on the CSCE Minsk Group, as the only continuously functioning and the most important element of the Minsk process, to formulate and adopt urgent steps to solve the problems relating to the unconditional withdrawal of the occupying Armenian forces from all Azerbaijani territories, including the occupied districts of Lachin and Shusha, as well as the occupied areas in the Kazakh and Zangelan districts; to ensure the identification and

withdrawal of foreign military personnel and weapons; and to create conditions for the safe return of refugees and displaced persons, including those in the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic. The inclusion in the Chairman's proposal of points aimed at resolving these problems would make it a document which could serve as an acceptable basis for dealing with the situation relating to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, settling the conflict expeditiously and determining the degree of responsibility of the parties.

I should like to draw your attention to the imperative need for the withdrawal of units of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia from the occupied areas in the Zangelan and Kazakh districts, which are not part of the Nagorny Karabakh region. This, together with the withdrawal of foreign military personnel and weapons and the full restoration of the international frontier regime between Armenia and Azerbaijan, should be the basis for consideration of the question of the removal of obstacles to normal communications between the two States involved in the armed conflict.

When the Security Council called for the immediate implementation of urgent steps for the withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories, it had in mind that only that withdrawal could remove the obstacles to communications and transport. In this connection, we would draw your attention to the need for practical steps to restore the lines of communication which have been destroyed, a task that will be impossible if the occupation continues in the districts through which those lines pass. Specifically, there are many communications hubs located in the occupied district of Agdam. Moreover, the spread of hostilities to the districts of Fizuli, Djebrail, Kubatly and Zangelan, right up to the frontier between Azerbaijan and Iran, is further complicating the restoration of rail communications. Such are the actual conditions relating to the situation which determine the urgency and order of priority of measures to liberate the territories and restore communications.

Azerbaijan looks forward to the opening of the Minsk Conference, which can begin only after the withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan has been completed, thereby establishing a framework for a comprehensive settlement, in conformity with the 24 March 1992 mandate of the CSCE Council of Ministers.

One of the most pressing tasks of CSCE should be to complete preparations for the deployment of a full-scale monitoring mission that will be able to ensure the attainment of all the goals set forth in the mandate of 1 March 1993.

The appeal by the Security Council for all parties to refrain from any hostile acts, and from any interference or intervention is a strong warning to the Republic of Armenia, which is committing direct aggression against Azerbaijan and supplying weapons and troops to Armenian separatists in the Nagorny Karabakh region of Azerbaijan through the occupied districts of Lachin and Kelbajar.

With regard to the reference made once again in Security Council resolution 874 (1993) - following similar references in resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) - to the important question of the difficult situation of the Azerbaijani population affected by the Armenian aggression, including the

population in the Nagorny Karabakh region, and to the obligatory and guaranteed return of the people concerned to their homes in security and dignity, Azerbaijan believes that the plan of action of the Minsk Group should include measures to ensure military and political guarantees of the return of those people, both from the mediator and from the appropriate governmental structures throughout the area of the conflict, and, in particular, in the Shusha and Lachin districts of the Azerbaijani Republic.

We consider the request made in the resolution that the Security Council should be kept informed on all aspects of the situation on the ground to be timely and constructive, particularly in view of the absence of any objective information in the reports of the CSCE mission regarding the actual situation in the areas of the Zangelan and Kazakh districts of the Azerbaijani Republic that are occupied by units of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia.

In connection with the foregoing, we reaffirm our readiness to continue consultations regarding the plan of action of the Minsk Group with a view to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993). We hope that a representative of the interested Azerbaijanis concerned from the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Azerbaijani Republic will also be able to participate in our next meeting.

(Signed) Hassan HASSANOV
Minister